

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 NEAE-00 CIAE-00 NSAE-00
NSCE-00 SSO-00 ICAE-00 INRE-00 SSM-03 SES-02
SAA-01 IO-13 HA-05 SY-05 A-01 OPR-02 OC-06 CCO-00
PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 CA-01
SCS-06 OMB-01 MCT-02 EB-08 TRSE-00 AID-05 /121 W
-----026762 181317Z /46

O P 181227Z AUG 78
FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9300
INFO SIT-REP COLLECTIVE PRIORITY
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER
USNMR SHAPE BELGIUM
CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON ENG
CINCUSAFE RAMSTEIN AB GER
COMSIXTHFLT
CTF SIX ZERO
CTF SIX ONE
CTF SIX TWO
CTG SIX ZERO PT TWO
FICEURLANT NORFOLK VA
FOSIF ROTA SPAIN
DIA WASHDC
CINCUSAREUR HEIDELBERG GER
USDOCOSOUTH NAPLES IT

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E.O. 11652: NA
TAGS: PINS PINT MILI ASEC LE
SUBJ: LEBANESE SITUATION: AUGUST 18, 1978 - 1200 HOURS LOCAL

1. SECURITY SITUATION.

A. THE BEIRUT CEASE-FIRE IS STILL GENERALLY HOLDING.

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PUBLIC STATEMENTS BY RIGHTIST LEADERS AND THE LEBANESE
COMMANDER OF THE SYRIAN DOMINATED ARAB DETERRENT FORCE
(ADF), HOWEVER, INDICATED LITTLE, IF ANY, PROGRESS
TOWARD STABILIZING THE SITUATION. NATIONAL LIBERAL
PARTY (NLP) MILITIA LEADER, DANY CHAMOUN EMERGED
FROM A MEETING WITH ADF COMMANDER SAMI KHATIB AND SAID THAT
THE MEETING HAD NOT BEEN POSITIVE. CHAMOUN ADDED THAT THE

SYRIANS HAD DEMANDED THAT THE LEBANESE DEVELOP
"AN ALL EMBRACING POLITICAL PLAN" PRIOR TO THE
IMPLEMENTATION OF ANY "FURTHER SECURITY MEASURES"
(A EUPHEMISM FOR FURTHER SYRIAN WITHDRAWALS FROM EAST BEIRUT).

B. NLP PRESIDENT CAMILLE CHAMOUN LIKENED
SYRIAN ACTIONS IN BEIRUT TO THOSE OF THE AUSTRIAN
TYRANT WHO OPPRESSED WILLIAM TELL. CHAMOUN NOTED THAT
TELL HAD ARRIVED FOR THE LEGENDARY APPLE SHOOT CARRYING
TWO ARROWS, THE SECOND OF WHICH WAS INTENDED FOR
THE TYRANT, SHOULD THE FIRST INJURE TELL'S SON. CHAMOUN
DID NOT ELABORATE AFTER TELLING HIS LITTLE PARABLE.
HE SAID SIMPLY, "HE WHO HAS EARS, LET HIM HEAR."

C. THE "UNIFIED COMMAND" OF THE RIGHTIST LEBANESE
FRONT MILITIAS CONDUCTED AN EMERGENCY MEETING IN THE
EVENING OF AUGUST 17. CAMILLE CHAMOUN RATHER THAN
BACHIR GEMAYEL PRESIDED OVER THE SESSION.

2. THE SOUTH.

A. THE PRESS REPORTED THAT THE LEBANESE GOVERNMENT
HAD REJECTED THE SUGGESTION THAT IT SEND A SMALL FORCE
TO TIBNIN BY HELICOPTER. ISRAELI RADIO CARRIED A
STATEMENT BY RENEGADE MAJOR SAMI SHIDIAK IN WHICH
SHIDIAK SAID HE WAS "SURE" THERE WOULD BE A FIGHT
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BETWEEN LEBANESE ARMY TROOPS AND HIS MILITIAMEN IF THE
LEBANESE ARMY ENTERED TIBNIN.

B. FORMER PARLIAMENTARY SPEAKER 'ADIL OSSERIAN, A
RIGHT-WING SHI'A, PUBLICLY ATTACKED THE UNITED STATES.
HE SAID THAT THE "AMERICANS WILL GIVE US NOTHING BUT
DEATH . . . THEY ARE DETERMINED TO TAKE A LARGE PART
OF SOUTH LEBANON AND SETTLE THE PALESTINIANS IN IT . . .
THEY ARE DETERMINED TO CUT LEBANON UP INTO LITTLE
PIECES AS A PRELUDE TO FURTHER PARTITION IN THE
ARAB COUNTRIES TO MAKE ISRAEL THE MASTER OF THE ARAB
WORLD." OSSERIAN CALLED FOR THE IMMEDIATE DISMISSAL
OF SA'AD HADDAD AND SAMI SHIDIAK WHO, HE SAID, WERE
TERRORIZING THE VILLAGERS OF THE SOUTH IN AN ATTEMPT TO
FORCE ISRAELI DOMINATION ON THEM.

C. IKE REPORTED THAT UN UNDER SECRETARY
GENERAL BRIAN URQUHART WOULD ARRIVE IN BEIRUT AUGUST 18
AT THE REQUEST OF THE LEBANESE GOVERNMENT TO DEAL WITH
THE "IMPASSE REGARDING THE DEPLOYMENT OF LEBANESE
TROOPS IN SOUTHERN LEBANON."

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3. RELATIONS WITH SYRIA.

A. FORMER PRESIDENT SULAYMAN FRANJIYAH BEGAN
TALKS IN LATAKIA ON AUGUST 17 WITH SYRIAN PRESIDENT
ASAD, AFTER A HELICOPTER-BORNE DEPARTURE FROM THE BAABDA
PALACE WHERE FRANJIYAH HAD CONFERRED WITH LEBANESE
PRESIDENT ELIAS SARKIS. THE PRESS LABELED FRANJIYAH'S
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TRIP AN ATTEMPT TO "MEDIATE" BETWEEN THE SYRIANS AND THE LEBANESE GOVERNMENT. PRESIDENT ASSAD AS REPORTED BY THE BEIRUT PRESS SEEMED TO REINFORCE THAT INTERPRETATION BY SAYING, "AS YOU ALL KNOW RELATIONS BETWEEN US AND PRESIDENT FRANJIYAH PERMIT US TO TALK ABOUT ALL THINGS WITHOUT ANY RESERVE, AND AS YOU ALSO KNOW, PRESIDENT FRANJIYAH'S OPINIONS ON THE SITUATION ARE OF GREAT VALUE TO US IN SYRIA."

B. FRANJIYAH INDICATED A POSITIVE VIEW TOWARD SYRIAN ATTEMPTS TO FORM A "BROAD NATIONAL FRONT" IN LEBANON. HE SAID IT WAS "OF THE UTMOST IMPORTANCE THAT A LARGE POLITICAL ALLIANCE BE FORMED IN LEBANON TO BACK PRESIDENT SARKIS IN HIS EFFORTS TO ESTABLISH STATE AUTHORITY AND BLOCK PARTITION PLANS IN LEBANON."

4. PRIME MINISTER'S RESPONSE TO ISRAELI FOREIGN MINISTER'S STATEMENTS.

A. PRIME MINISTER SALIM AL-HOSS CHARGED ISRAEL ON AUGUST 17 WITH BLATANT INTERFERENCE IN LEBANESE AFFAIRS, AFTER ISRAELI FOREIGN MINISTER MOSHE DAYAN REPORTEDLY SAID THAT THE CHRISTIAN ENCLAVES IN SOUTH LEBANON WERE IMPORTANT TO ISRAELI SECURITY, THAT SYRIA MUST NOT BE ALLOWED TO MAKE LEBANON A CONFRONTATION STATE, AND THAT ISRAEL WAS HELPING CHRISTIANS IN SOUTH LEBANON TO PREVENT THEM FROM BEING SLAUGHTERED.

B. HOSS COMPLAINED THAT "ISRAEL IS HIDING BEHIND ABSOLUTELY FALSE CLAIMS AND USING VARIOUS PRETEXTS TO PREVENT LEBANON'S LEGAL AUTHORITIES FROM EXERCISING THEIR NATURAL RIGHT OF SOVEREIGNTY OVER SOUTH LEBANESE TERRITORY." HOSS SAID THAT "IT WILL LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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DO ISRAEL NO GOOD TO CONTINUE ITS ATTEMPTS TO SOW DISCORD AMONG THE LEBANESE BY ISSUING STATEMENTS ABOUT FACTIONAL DIFFERENCES AMONG THEM, THE OBVIOUS OBJECT OF WHICH IS TO UNDERMINE LEBANON'S INTERNAL FRONT."

5. LATE ITEM. THE PORT OPENED LONG ENOUGH MORNING OF AUGUST 18 FOR A LEAST ONE SHELL TO HIT IT. FOUR PEOPLE WERE REPORTEDLY WOUNDED. PORT QUICKLY CLOSED AGAIN.

DECON 10/18/78.
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